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Approved For Release 2002/09/05 : CIA-RDP77-00389R000100090024-1

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Oct 23 10 18 PM '62

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Origin

ACTION: Embassy MOSCOW 985 NIACI

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Info

EYES ONLY

State Dept. review completed

You should deliver following letter addressed by the President to Chairman Khrushchev immediately. This replaces message contained Deptel 982.

QUOTE

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received your letter of October twenty-third. I think you will recognize that the steps which started the current chain of events was the action of your Government in secretly furnishing offensive weapons to Cuba. We will be discussing this matter in the Security Council. In the meantime, I am concerned that we both show prudence and do nothing to allow events to make the situation more difficult to control than it already is.

I hope

Drafted by:

W.C. Hall:hc 10/23/62

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

George W. Ball

Clearances:

White House - Mr. Bundy

S/S - Mr. Brubeck

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I hope that you will issue immediately the necessary instructions to your ships to observe the terms of the quarantine, the basis of which was established by the vote of the Organization of American States this afternoon, and which will go into effect at 1400 hours Greenwich time October twenty-four.

Sincerely,

JFK

UNQUOTE

RUSK

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